

The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen
Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

This morning (Thursday, October 29) when Pat Dal Porto, Rick, and I headed over to the dining room for breakfast, we heard the camp caretaker of Camp Emmanuel calling to us in Spanish. Something was going on where Luis Rios stood. As we walked closer, we could see a shallow hole filled with water and evidence to one side of the hole of an area which had obviously experienced a substantial flow of water. Yesterday when the new water pipes and the LP gas lines were being re-covered by the backhoe tractor, the weight of the large machine had pressed down too hard over the main water line from the on-site well to the water storage tower and had caused a joint to separate. All night the well had been pumping water into the dirt, forming a huge muddy mess. In Rick's calm, classic way, he said, "Well, that's another thing we need to fix." He never

seems to get flustered - like I do. He turned off the water pumps at the water tower, and then we went to breakfast. After another good meal, Rick and I went back to

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Rick fixing one of many
water line breaks

A CUT ABOVE THE REST

by Ken Jensen

I cannot sit here in the casita (little house) at Camp Emmanuel in southern Uruguay and NOT write something about the work that is happening and has happened around me over the past 4-5 days. The USA work team will be here through Tuesday, November 3, when we leave Uruguay shortly before midnight. Between now and then much more work will be accomplished, Lord willing. But thus far an enormous amount of work has been accomplished.

Including myself, there are 8 men from the USA who are a part of "Rick's team" this year. All of the members except one have been here at Camp Emmanuel before, and some have come down several times. In addition, Pedro Donzé, the camp director, has put together a top-notch group of men from across Uruguay to assist with the projects. And there are 4 ladies in the kitchen providing delicious food for us four times per day. (The 3rd meal is at 5:00 PM, and is called Tea Time - a wonderful carryover from British rule in the 19th Century.) I have counted at least 15 Uruguayans, but I'm sure there are more.

The major projects for this trip: (1) Laying new water lines from the new state-run water line that was installed along the road just off the camp property. Unlike the water from the shallow well at the camp, the OSE water is purer and thus drinkable. For many years we have purchased bottled water for drinking at camp and used our well water for the bathrooms (it's clean enough for those uses). The new water lines have been "laid" to all of the cabins, the dining room/kitchen, the chapel, the casita, and the caretaker's house. (2) Installing a central LP gas system. For years the LP gas for the water heaters in the 8 cabins and the kitchen was supplied by 10 liter gas cylinders that had to be "exchanged" rather

frequently. The gas that was still in the cylinders when exchanged was lost to our use, and we were not compensated for the "leftovers." With a central LP gas system, all gas appliances will be connected to the 2 four hundred liter tanks in our newly built gas house. The government regulations for installing the gas lines are much more numerous than those for the water lines. (3) Digging up the badly deteriorating sidewalk on two sides of the dining room and replacing them with new sidewalks, drains, and a service ramp. This project has been a little more complicated than anticipated, but progress is being made. (4) Replacing the drop ceiling in the dining room with a vinyl ceiling. The old ceiling was noticeably in need of replacement, as was the old lighting. And (5) The cutting down of many large trees because they were too close to the new gas lines - according to government regulations. Doug Gorsline, with the assistance of Britt Hopper, took down the largest trees yesterday afternoon and this morning. It has been quite a "thrill" to feel, literally, everything in the vicinity of the falling giants shake under the mass of energy hitting the ground - and realizing that none of the behemoths have yet to visit me in the casita!

By the title of "A Cut Above the Rest," I am referring to the skills of the men

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Pedro Donzé going over the list of projects and work assignments for the USA team when we first arrived at camp

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the saturated hole. He gave me instructions concerning where and how much to dig. (It's easy to follow Rick's directions because I know he is almost always right.) Within a short time Rick had recoupled the joint, and the well and water tower pumps were turned on. What looked like a tragedy to me was a piece of cake for Rick. He not only understands the problems, but he knows how to fix them. We have all learned to trust his judgement. On a grander scale, we each have problems that we face every day. Some days are worse than others, but every day has its own difficulties. My first tendency is to fret over the problem. But I have someone even greater than Rick who knows my problems from beginning to end. He has the solutions to all my difficulties. My responsibility is to trust in Him and wait on His timing, and to utilize the wisdom He affords us in the Bible. And what is even more outstanding, this problem solver is available to all of us who profess His name - Jesus Christ. Rick is a wonderful brother to have and to be around. But he is not always with me. Christ is. May we each take this truth as our comfort and make Jesus the first "go-to" Person in times of joy and of sorrow.

Wow! Much has changed for us at Camp Emmanuel since I wrote the last line of the preceding paragraph. Rick came to the *casita* where I was typing to tell me that **Doug Gorsline** had an accident while felling a tree. The short story is that Doug had tied off a pine tree with two ropes at 90 degree angles from each other so the tree could be dropped at 90 degrees against its natural lean. The cut was perfect and the trajectory of the pine was perfect. However, the rope that was opposite the tree's lean was about ten feet too short. This rope had been wrapped around another tree and tied off for stability. But when the tree fell, that rope kept the crown from reaching the ground. Doug loosened the rope to allow the tree to fall the rest of the way. Unfortunately, the huge amount of force from the weight of the tree caused the rope to whip around the anchor tree. As it did so, the end of the rope impacted Doug's right eye. The lack of bruising on his eyelid seems to indicate that his eye was open at the time of impact. Those who saw the event were surprised that Doug did not black out.

Pedro Donzé (camp director) called for an ambulance, which showed up about 45 minutes later. The on-board doctor examined the eye and suggested that Doug be taken to a hospital. The ambulance drove Doug to the Hospital Britanico in Montevideo while Pedro drove me to the hospital. After a rather long time on an emergency room bed, an exam by another doctor, and after Doug was served supper, he was transferred to a regular hospital room. There was a lot of time spent by Pedro and me on the insurance/



Doug being examined by doctor in ambulance before transport to hospital

bill payment side of this hospitalization. Doug's insurance company agreed to pay for one night in the hospital. We are working on getting that extended because the eye physician, Dr. Suarez, said Doug needed to stay in the hospital for 4 more days for tests and checkups. And the doctor is "demanding" that Doug get as much rest as possible. John Mark Steel walked the 5 or 6 blocks from the mission house to the hospital, and he stayed with Doug last night. Pedro and I got back to camp a little before 1:00 AM, Friday morning.

It is now early afternoon on Friday, October 30, as I write from Doug's hospital room. He currently has been taken to another hospital for - if I understood correctly - an MRI to see the extent of the damage to his eye. Since this newsletter needs to be completed within the next couple of days, the outcome of this saga will need to be reported in the December newsletter. Please pray for Doug's healing. He is a vital part of The Wilds of North Carolina's staff.

Finishing our projects at camp is important for two reasons: 1) there is a group of diligently working men and women available to do these jobs now; and 2) there is a group of 120 children who will be here next Thursday for a three-day camping experience, and they need drinking water and hot water, lights in the dining room, and safe sidewalks around the dining room. In addition, all of the project sights need to be cleaned up. This children's camp is a "rental" camp which helps greatly in paying camp expenses. And we need many more groups renting our camp than have been. However, maintaining the testimony of Camp Emmanuel as being a place used for God's glory greatly limits who we can rent the camp to.

While in Uruguay, I am usually absorbed in the ministry here. But ministries of our missionaries outside of Uruguay continue to go forward. And though I am sure to overlook an important update on one or more of our EMU families, I will endeavor to present a comprehensive report.

The Erkens continue to make preparations

to move back to Beijing, China, in early January. Steve continues to help with the changes being made in the office procedures. These changes are already saving the mission hundreds of dollars each month. The Erkens family is also continuing to visit churches and friends outside of the Greenville area.

In October **JD Crowley** traveled to another Southeast Asia country to minister to ministers there. He will be in the USA for a few weeks in November to speak at a missionary conference in Carlock, Illinois, November 15-22. Before and after he will be visiting his children and parents in Illinois, and North and South Carolina. **Kim** and **Nate** will remain in Cambodia. The family will have a divided Thanksgiving this year.

Matt Hancock sent an encouraging report telling of his opportunities to witness to his language teacher. The Hancocks also had a surprise visit from relatives in October.

The Farmers are still on furlough. While living in central Tennessee, the Farmer children are attending a Christian school for the first time. (Their homeschool is Christian, too!) And Jeremy continues to visit those who are partnering with them in their Cambodia calling.

I suppose I am allowed to make the following announcement, since **Josh and Amy** in Ban Lung, Cambodia, have posted the news on the web already. They are expecting the birth of Joan's and my 9th grandchild in March 2016. If you would like to see a very cute and imaginative "announcement" video, go to their blog at "The Jensen Dimension." Joshua has begun working on the orthography of the Kachok tribal language that does not have a written language. The Jarai tribal language is also still on his radar.



Josh with four Kachok men who have agreed to help with the orthography

The Kanes sent out their most recent prayer letter in October. I would like to share the last two paragraphs of that report with you:

"Currently, **Nigh** (Brian's Krung language helper) and I are working to proofread the rest of the lessons for the upcoming Krung Bible school in January. This will be the last session of prerequisites that the Krung pastors need in order to participate in the Ratanakiri Pastors School beginning in mid to late 2016. However, Nigh is already excited about continuing the Krung/Brao

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Bible school beyond these prerequisites by adding other book studies. He's already begun to translate the Romans commentary that JD Crowley produced a few years ago.

"As Nigh and I finish proofing the lessons for the next session of Bible school, we will be continuing our Krung Bible translation work. Initially, we will be checking the translation of the book of Matthew. Since the translation work necessitates that I stay a few days a week out in Somroh village where Nigh's family lives, Lydia and I had begun praying about my building or renting a small house/hut out in Nigh's village to serve as both a house and translation office. I met and talked with several of the Krung Christians about the best course of action, and they all agreed that building would be a long process with other potential complications. As it happened, one of the men was in the midst of building his own house, but was running out of money. He offered to rent it to me for a few years and that would, in turn, give him the needed money to finish the house. It was a win-win situation, as it means that I can start using it right away at the beginning of November. It has no plumbing or electricity, but we'll get a small bit of solar equipment for the house and the forest will suffice for the other. Please continue to pray that God would bless us as we progress in these facets of translation work. We need wisdom and skill to make good translations of both study materials and especially the Bible."

Billy Judson of Secunderabad, India, was able to inaugurate a new Good News Bible College. The following is from a letter we received from him:

"I had a wonderful weekend as we traveled to Bidar District to start a Bible college branch. Bidar is 96 miles away from my home, and it took almost 4 hours to reach our destination because of the road conditions and traffic. I had the great privilege of preaching at the local church on the importance of learning the word of God in detail. We later discussed with the local Pastors and elders the details of the contract that they signed so they could be affiliated with Good News Bible College in Bidar District. These people speak the Kanada language, and I speak the Telugu language, which is a totally different dialect,



Billy (4th from left in striped shirt) with church leaders in Bidar District

so I had to use an interpreter.

"In September we received a visit from **Pastor Scott Wylie** of Colonial Baptist Church in Cary, NC, from October 18-22. We had a great time presenting our ministry to him. For the very first time, almost all of our 15 coordinators came together for a meeting with Pastor Scott. This was very exciting to see the development of the ministry."

The Bixbys and Coles had the privilege of hosting one of the deacons from their sending church, Cleveland Park Bible Church in Spartanburg, SC. **Dave and Becky Wilbur**, with their two sons, spent about 12 days in northern France to see the Coles' and Bixbys' ministries. Cleveland Park Bible Church actually sent the Wilburs on this trip as an official visit from the church.



Liz Cole and Becky & Dave with 3 of the Cole children and the 2 Wilbur boys

Joan and I were able to have **Tom and Connie Chapman** to our house for brunch one day in October. Though they were staying in the Greenville area for a couple of weeks, they were kept pretty busy with family in town. One of their highlights of this visit was getting to attend three chapel services at Bob Jones University where their son **Tim Chapman** was the featured preacher during Missions Emphasis Week. The Wingroves and the Erkens spent time at the EMU display table meeting and greeting students. Tim was only in Greenville for six days. Cheryl and the kids survived in Lima, Peru, without him.

The Nuñezes' church in Cancún, Mexico, continues to see conversions to Jesus Christ. In August and September there were two baptismal services in the Caribbean.



Marco baptizing Erik

When I started "Along the Way," I had no idea that we would have to so completely put our trust in the Lord to overcome a major problem – i.e. Doug's injury. Doug's accident is not what we had planned or wanted. But God brought this into the lives of those who love Him and trust Him to do good for His children. When emergencies or major problems like this arise, my mind automatically begins to think of all

the options and how to navigate to avoid possible setbacks. (That is what mission directors get paid to do!) But there is also the feeling of helplessness in situations like this because decisions are being made by people outside my authority. But the first 2 paragraphs of this article kept coming back to me: God knows how to work this out. And He has and is doing so. The testimony of God's grace was shown to the doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff, especially through Doug's demeanor. And the exhibit of God's grace among the Americans and Uruguayans at camp was an encouragement to all of us to see how Doug and the rest of us handled the situation.

It is easy in our day-to-day routine to lose sight of God's presence with us. And it often takes a "tragedy" to refocus our gaze. That's just being human. But it is supreme comfort to know that He is with us always "even unto the end of the world." Everyone reading these lines will have tragedies, accidents, and problems of all sorts enter our daily walk. May we always avail ourselves of the grace that God so richly pours out to us. Thank you for your interest in EMU International, and may the Lord grant you a God-centered Thanksgiving. ✠

A Cut Above the Rest

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– American and Uruguayan – who are working here. Most have training in the areas in which they are working. A man from Rivera in northern Uruguay came to help install the gas lines, which is his regular occupation. Everyone's skills have been utilized to get these projects done.

In the December Newsletter I will let you know how everything worked out. Thus far the Lord has blessed us with safety (Obviously, this article was written before Doug's accident!), good weather, and good progress on each project. Some of these projects have run into extra cost, which is usual. We would be encouraged if any of you would like to contribute to these additional costs. ✠



The kitchen staff that kept us too well fed: (l-r) Beatriz Alberti, Mabel Olivera, Valeria Gomez, & Graciela

P.S. - Doug was released from the hospital on Saturday evening and is resting at Camp Emmanuel. His insurance company seems to be cooperating, too.



Reminder!

This EMU monthly newsletter is made available in PDF format on the EMUInternational.org website, under the heading "Newsletters." Because a PDF does not read well on a smart phone or tablet, the EMU Newsletter is also offered by email through Mail Chimp. The format is much more conducive to a smaller screen. If you would like to receive these newsletters via Mail Chimp, please let us know your email address. Already, several hundred people have availed themselves of this paperless option. If you prefer the paper copy, we are more than glad to keep you on the "hard copy" list.

Also, I would like to remind you that you can donate to EMU via several options:

1) sending a check to the home office (the most common method for giving), 2) through PayPal (the EMU International website explains how to use PayPal and designate the gift as one-time or recurring, and to a particular individual or ministry), and 3) through an automatic monthly ACH transfer from your bank to the EMU bank account (you will need to request an ACH form from EMU and fill it out for initiating the transfer by EMU). Whichever way you desire to give is fine with us.

In addition, we are now offering e-receipts and an e-thank you letter for your donations. In the past all receipts and letters were sent via USPS. The e-receipt and e-letter can be sent without the cost of letterhead, envelope, or postage. And the electronic option is much faster for getting the receipt and letter to you. ✚



Unity

by Ken Jensen



It is part of the culture of Christianity for us to think of the birth of Jesus the Christ when we hear the word "Christmas." (It still amazes me that there are people living in relatively modern countries who know of Christmas but who have no knowledge of its significance, other than giving and receiving presents. Even here in Uruguay, from whence I am writing, there are those among the 3 million citizens who have no concept of who Jesus is, much less why He came into the world.)

Those of you reading these words not only know the purpose of celebrating Christmas, but also of the significance of Easter. But one of the often overlooked reasons of the Incarnation and Glorification of Jesus was to bring unity to God's children. Jesus' last teachings before the crucifixion, as well as the Apostles' letters, implore the unity of the saints. Though we are painfully aware of the reasons we have so many denominations and sects - and many of those divisions are necessary - there is still to be a unity among those who hold to the true fundamentals of historic Christian doctrine.

That unity is in pronounced evidence here at Camp Emmanuel in Guazuvirá, Uruguay, this week. Eight Americans from four States and over 15 men and women from across Uruguay have been working side-by-side from "day one," with a common goal of accomplishing several major projects on the camp property.

However, the unity exhibited here is not simply because of the camp projects. The unity is a true affection among all of us

through our oneness in Christ. This unity even transcends our language barrier. But that Christian unity surpasses the comradery shown at Camp Emmanuel. Those of you who pray for and give towards the support of our EMU missionaries, regardless of the country of service, are a display of the kind of unity taught by our Savior and His disciples.

And it is based on that unity that I come to you via this November publication to ask for your generosity towards the **Christmas Fund offering**. As a point of clarity, the Christmas Fund offering is for the Uruguayan national missionaries. Your gift can be either designated for a specific Uruguayan or to the Christmas Fund in general, which will be divided among our Uruguayan missionaries. This yearly supplement to our Uruguayan missionaries has always been a tremendous blessing here in Uruguay.

However, you can also designate your special offering to any of our missionaries outside of Uruguay (or the two American families serving in Uruguay). There are always special and extra expenses around the Christmas season, and your gift to any EMU missionary is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity. If you can give nothing, we still appreciate and need your prayers. May the Lord grant you a blessed holiday season, i.e. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year! ✚

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